

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Page 2

Div. of U.S. Appl. No. 09/661,627

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the new claims as follows:

1-13. CANCELLED

14. (Previously Presented) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, a tongue, a first equalizing cavity located adjacent to an upper end of a proximal end of the tongue, wherein a distal end of the tongue is smaller than a proximal end of the groove; and

a second equalizing cavity, formed by a gap between the proximal end of the groove and the distal end of the tongue.

15. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 14, wherein at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing cavity extends to the lower surface of the second board.

16. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 15, further comprising glue disposed in at least one of the first equalizing cavity and the second equalizing cavity.

17. (Previously Presented) The joint of claim 14, wherein the tongue comprises at least one guiding wedge on an upper surface or a lower surface thereof, whereby the at least one guiding wedge contacts an inner surface of the groove.

18. (New) A joint formed at a junction between adjacent boards, the joint comprising:

a first board, comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Page 3

Div. of U.S. Appl. No. 09/661,627

a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a tongue; and

 said first board and said second board defining a gap therebetween; and
 a hole, in fluid communication with said gap.

19. (New) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole extends from said joint towards a proximal section of said first or second panel.

20. (New) The joint of claim 18, wherein said vent extends towards said lower surface of said first or second board.

21. (New) The joint of claim 18, wherein said hole is a vent through one of said boards.

22. (New) The joint of claim 21, wherein said vent has a terminal end at said lower surface of said board.

23. (New) A method for assembling floor boards to form a joint therebetween, the method comprising:

 providing:

 a first board, said first board comprising an upper surface, a lower surface and a groove;

 a second board joined to the first board, and comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a tongue; and

 glue, disposed on at least one of said tongue and said groove;
 mating said groove of said first board with said tongue of said second board; and
 directing said glue away from said upper surface of said boards.